

JULY 1986 SIS PROMOTION CEREMONY

Good morning and welcome to the July 1986 SIS Promotion Ceremony.

I want to welcome particularly the families who are present today. We don't often have the opportunity to acknowledge to you the significant contributions that your spouses make to the security of the nation. This very elite group accomplishes its many missions unheralded and often with great sacrifices, sacrifices we know you share. Thank you for your support.

It is particularly gratifying to be able to participate today because the number of SIS promotions -- promotions into and within the Senior Intelligence Service -- is the largest since the establishment of the Senior Intelligence Service. While they are not all able to be with us today,

You enter the ranks of CIA's senior managers at perhaps the most exciting and challenging time in its history. We are on the threshold of reaping the many benefits of the huge investment in building up our capabilities over the past five

years. Modernization programs for the National Photographic Interpretation Center, the Foreign Broadcast Information Service, our communications system and of our computer capabilities are well underway or nearly complete. God willing, we will begin moving into the new building a little over a year from now. In science and technology, we face the paradoxical challenge of, on the one hand, serious problems because of failures of launch vehicles for our technical intelligence satellites and our stretched capabilities in the coming two to three years and, yet, on the other hand, we are nearly ready to launch new types of collection satellites that will give us capabilities that even the fiction writers do not yet dream of. There has been a significant increase in the strength of the clandestine service; its collection capabilities are in the finest shape in our history and promise only to improve further -- but we need more case officers and we need them overseas. Demands for our information and our analysis on a wide range of international problems -- whether Chernobyl, the Philippines, South Africa, terrorism or countless others -- have never been greater nor our credibility higher but as the demand grows, we will face hard choices about priorities.

I believe that more than at any time in our history, the American government looks to the Intelligence Community and to CIA, in particular, to play an instrumental role in the decisionmaking process and the conduct of foreign policy. Both

the President and the Congress look to us for guidance and for information on a growing diversity of problems, challenges and opportunities around the world both now and those they barely discern in the future. We, in turn, respond not only to those needs but look even further ahead and inform and warn them of problems that their successors' successors will face.

They look to us, too, as a vital instrument of policy whether in the shadowy world of counterterrorism, the complex world of arms control monitoring, the dirty world of combatting narcotics traffickers, the realm of technology transfer or as the lifeline to anti-Communist insurgencies on three continents.

The challenge of meeting these responsibilities is daunting, yet exciting. The problems you will confront increasingly will be complex ones for which there are no simple answers. To you will fall increasingly the responsibility for maintaining the objectivity and integrity of CIA's work among myriad contending political forces and between conflicting branches of government. To you will fall the management of large-scale covert actions ensuring that our efforts are effective yet still consistent with complex legal constraints. To you will fall the responsibility for finding new ways to exploit the avalanche of information that the collection systems you design will bring to us. To you will fall the responsibility of supporting these vast undertakings, and of challenging, motivating and guiding the most unique and talented work force in the world -- the people of CIA.

You will soon enough get caught up in the day to day problems and tribulations of being a senior manager, but never lose your perspective about the role this Agency and its people play as the first line of defense for this nation -- a mission that keeps the men and women of this Agency working long after their compatriots in other agencies have gone home and keeps them in the dangerous streets of Beirut, Khartoum and dozens of other hostile places around the world. You who are being recognized today, along with your senior colleagues, are the carefully chosen leaders -- and role-models -- of the most elite and remarkable group of people in the American government. We have every confidence that you can do the job. Now let us proceed with the ceremony.